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Associated Press Wirephoto
tol, Caroline touches the flag

JOHNSON AFFIRMS AIMS IN VIETNAM

Retains Kennedy's Policy of Aiding War on Reds— Lodge Briefs President

By E. W. KENWORTHY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24 — President Johnson reaffirmed today the policy objectives of his predecessor regarding South Vietnam. He called upon all Government agencies to support that policy with full unity of purpose.

This was disclosed by White House sources after a meeting between President Johnson and Henry Cabot Lodge, United States Ambassador to South Vietnam.

The meeting lasted nearly an hour. It was described as being devoted to a full review of the conclusions reached by participants in a strategy conference on South Vietnam held in Honolulu last Wednesday.

In another move today that emphasized the President's desire to convey at home and abroad the impression of continuity, Mr. Johnson asked all members of the White House staff to remain at their jobs.

This was announced by Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary.

Some Expected to Leave

Mr. Salinger said the President would leave up to the officials involved how long they wished to serve him.

Inevitably some of these officials—especially those from the universities and foundations—will decide to leave their posts after an interval.

But the President's request today would seem to insure that during the difficult days of adjustment and transition he

would continue to have the benefit of the experience of key policy figures.

Attending the meeting between the President and Ambassador Lodge today were Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, Under Secretary of State George W. Ball, John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the President for national security affairs.

Secretaries Rusk and McNamara, Ambassador Lodge and Mr. Bundy all took part in the Honolulu conference.

As a result of the meeting, White House informants said, President Johnson laid down a

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general policy line emphasizing the following:

First, the central point of United States policy on South Vietnam remains; namely, to assist the new government there in winning the war against the Communist Vietcong insurgents. The adoption of all measures should be determined by their potential contribution to this overriding objective.

Second, the White House statement of Oct. 2 on the withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam remains in force. This statement, reflecting a decision of the National Security Council, said the program for training of Vietnamese troops should have progressed by the end of this year to the point "where 1,000 United States military personnel" can be withdrawn.

The United States now has 16,500 military men in South Vietnam.

Seeks Unity of Purpose

Third, all United States agencies represented in Vietnam are to assist the present Government in its tasks of consolidation and the development of public support for programs directed toward winning the war.

President Johnson, according to a White House source, asked that all agencies in the field support these policies with full unity of purpose.

When asked why the President should feel it necessary to ask for unity, the source said that since the visit to South Vietnam of Secretary McNamara and Gen. Maxwell D. Tay-

lor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, last September, the agencies in the field had been united on policies to be followed. However, he said that prior to that time there had been differences of views.

It is known that the Defense Department and the C.I.A. thought political reforms by the government of then President Ngo Dinh Diem should take second place to the task of fighting the Communists.

The State Department, on the other hand, felt increasingly that public support for the war effort depended on political and economic reforms, particularly a cessation of persecution of Buddhists by the Roman Catholic-dominated regime.

Despite the emphasis President Johnson laid today on winning the war, officials said that at Honolulu there had been a concentration on "something besides winning the war."

Economic Base Cited

The conference participants, it was said, were fully aware that a sounder economic base for the new government must be built and that the lot of the villagers must be improved. It was agreed that unless these objectives could be achieved, the government might well collapse, even though the war against the Communists was going better.

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against the Communists was going better.

Consequently, it was said, there was agreement that the United States must provide as much economic aid as possible.

It was realized that the uncertain political situation in South Vietnam required a delicate balancing of economic measures. On the one hand, it was explained, there must be some austerity to curb inflation; on the other, the austerity must not be so great as to generate disaffection with the new government.

All in all, officials said, the tone of the Honolulu meeting was hopeful despite recognition of the pitfalls.

It is safe to conclude, officials said today, that all this was conveyed to President Johnson.

Officials cautioned against interpreting today's meeting as an indication of renewed crisis. Ambassador Lodge, they noted, had been scheduled to come here after the Honolulu meeting to report to President Kennedy. He was to have dined with Mr. Kennedy today.

Following the assassination of President Kennedy, they said, it was decided that Ambassador Lodge should come as planned. It was decided also that his report to President Johnson should not be postponed until after the funeral of President Kennedy tomorrow.

The Ambassador, they said, wished to return to Saigon as soon as possible in order to convey to the government personally his assurances that the new Administration meant no change of policy.

Having dealt with South Vietnam, President Johnson, it was learned, will turn this week to the problems facing the Alliance for Progress in Latin America. He will confer with Secretary Rusk and Assistant Secretary of State Edwin M. Martin. The latter has been in Argentina in connection with the cancellation of contracts with United States oil companies.

Arduous Day for President

President Johnson had a long, arduous, emotion-filled day.

At 10 A.M. he received a 30-minute intelligence briefing at his home by Mr. McCone and Mr. Bundy. At 11 he attended services with his wife and 16-year old daughter, Lucy, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church upon Capitol Hill.

He then went to the White House to accompany the body

of President Kennedy to the Capitol.

On returning to his office after the ceremonies in the Capitol Rotunda, his face was drawn, and tears welled in his eyes.

After the meeting with Mr. Lodge, the President had courtesy visits from Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois and Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago and from Lieut. Gov. Preston Smith and Attorney General Waggoner Carr of Texas.

The press of business and visits kept the President in his office until after 7 P.M.

Johnson Speech Prepared

Officials at the White House and State Department worked today on drafts of the address the President will deliver to Congress Wednesday. The speech, which will be broadcast by radio and television, will almost certainly not deal in any detail with specific problems.

It is the President's intention, officials said, to assure the nation and the world of the continuity of the essential purposes and policies of the United States. Beyond that, he will appeal—as President Truman did 18 years ago—for the support of the Congress and the nation and will assure them he will fill his office to the best of his ability.

Another visitor was Robert B. Anderson, a Texas Democrat who was Secretary of the Treasury under President Eisenhower.

Mr. Anderson said it was a social visit and there was no mention of a Government position for him.